

V The final battle

The fight to save Earth from invaders goes on in the shock mini-series — Part II

V — the top-rating TV mini-series about creatures from outer space taking over the planet Earth — is to be made into a regular television series.

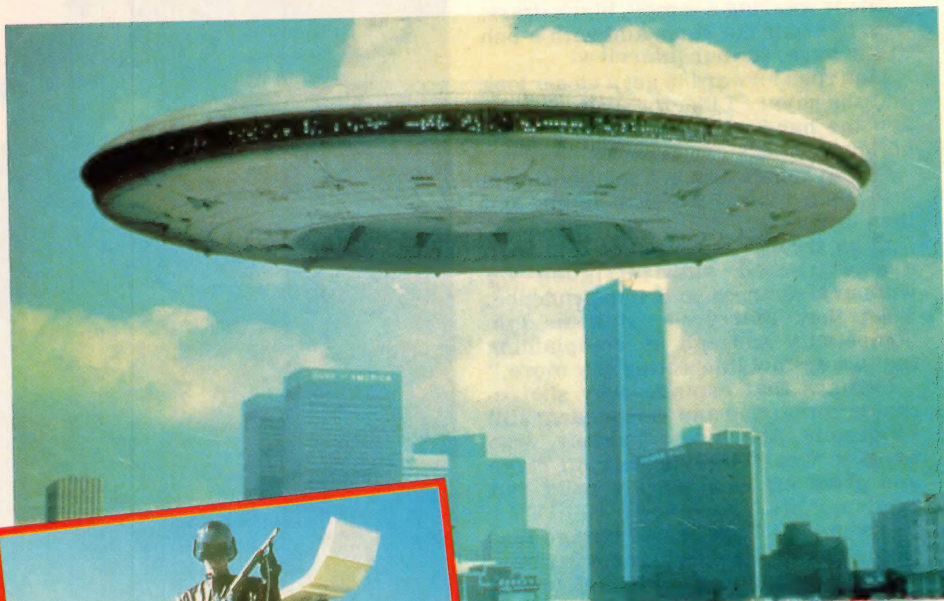
The popularity of the six-hour mini-series has spawned not only a blockbuster follow up, *V: The Final Battle*, which will be shown on Network 10 next week, but its very own TV series.

America's mogul network NBC has announced it will make a weekly hour-long program, costing \$1 million per episode, based on the hit mini-series.

V, the new TV series, is expected to go to air across the U.S. soon and, yes, the favorites from the mini series will be there — Jane Badler as the villainous Diana, Marc Singer, Faye Grant and all the others.

For NBC a sci-fi TV series is a gamble. Others have tried sci-fi and lost not only millions of dollars but millions of viewers.

Buck Rogers was dropped after only one season in the U.S. and *Battlestar Galactica*, which we saw in Australia



ABOVE: The giant mother ship hovers over a frightened city.

LEFT: Two of the mysterious aliens guard a shuttle craft.

BELOW LEFT: Marc Singer (left) and Frank Ashmore are stalwart fighters against the invading aliens.

on the Seven Network, was an expensive flopperoo.

Logan's Run and Space 1999 were other TV sci-fi attempts that just didn't make it. But NBC is convinced that with V they have a hit and is predicting that V, the TV series, will be the first successful sci-fi series since the Sixties days of Star Trek.

Why? They point to the big ratings of the two mini-series and say confidently: "We're on to a winner."

Battlestar, say NBC programmers, didn't work because all the budget went on special effects, and the stories were bland and the acting poor.

"V will have strong storylines, good plots, and, while the special effects will be good, they won't be the reason everyone will tune in, a spokesman said.

"People will tune in, as they did to Star Trek, because of the characters and the storylines."

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MAIN PHOTO: Jane Badler (rear), pictured here with Faye Grant and Marc Singer, is back as the villainous Diana.
ABOVE: When the appearance of this alien is revealed, it isn't a pretty sight.

gullible humans that the aliens are not friendly and are not like humans but are cold-hearted, emotionless, ruthless reptiles.

Faye Grant, who plays heroine Julie Parrish, is back in this one.

So, too, is hero Mike Donovan, played by Marc Singer. And with *V: The Final Battle* there is Falcon Crest's arch bitch Sarah Douglas playing the evil, pitiless alien Pamela, with Richard Herd (the nice cop from *TJ Hooker*) back again as the cruel commander of the alien forces, John.

Sarah Douglas, incidentally, is no stranger to playing evil alien beings from outer space. Remember her in *Superman II* as the arch villainess who, with Terence Stamp, pitted her evil powers against Clark Kent?

From Jenny Cullen in New York

NBC programmers also point to *V*'s producer-writer-director Kenneth Johnson as a big reason they are so confident.

"Johnson is the man who gave us the hits *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *The Bionic Woman* and *The Incredible Hulk*, and, with his two mini-series on *V*, he has proved he can create television sci-fi magic yet again."

Next week, Australia will see the follow up to the first mini-series, *V*, when *V: The Final Battle* goes to air.

It is shorter in length than the original *V* — four hours as against six hours — but even more exciting, with big stars matched with great effects, a bigger budget and tense plot.

In the first mini-series we saw Earth invaded by reptilian creatures from outer space, who hid their alien forms under human skin and humanoid features. They arrived appearing as friendly and as innocuous as E.T. before taking over Earth and sending humans to food processing factories.

The human resistance freedom fighters fought back, but could they win?

• Eric Johnston in a tense scene from the mini-series.

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It was a rousing ending, but that first mini-series left a lot of ends untied — like the tragedy of unwed human teenager Robin's (Blair Tefkin) pregnancy by cold-hearted alien Brian (Peter Nelson).

V: The Final Battle attempts to tie it all up, the problem alien pregnancy along with the problem of persuading

